report of the project has been prepared. This project has also been given the techno-economic clearance by the central electricity authority. It has got the forest environment clearance as well as clearance from the civil aviation authority and P.I.B. also According to the present rates, Rs.2000 crore are likely to be spent on this project. Four units of 210 MW will be set up. This project will be set up in foreign collaboration. The proposal of investment is under consideration. As soon as a decision is taken in this regard the Government will take action.

[*English*]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: The position in Haryana is not unknown to the hon. Minister. If nothing is done in Haryana, the position will become worse. You know that Haryana is an agriculture and rural industry based State and the power generation is needed. In these circumstances, considering the acute power shortage in Haryana, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to set up gas based power plant at Faridabad in Haryana. If so, the details thereof and if not the reasons thereof because already there is a pipeline coming via Faridabad and that can be used.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir., in view of the shortage of power in Haryana and in the entire country, the N.T.P.C. has already started its work in Yamunanagar. Acquisition of land has nearly been done there. Buildings are being constructed and infrastructural work has also started. As this project will involve an expenditure of Rs.2000 crore, the problem of funding is under consideration. We are making every effort to start the work on thermal power station from this year itself. Secondly, the proposal for setting up a gas based power plant in Faridabad is also under consideration.... As soon as, there will be availability of natural gas from the petroleum ministry, the work on gas based power project will be started.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No.755.

SHRIMATI BASAVA JAJESWARI : I was raising my hand, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: This is relating to Haryana please.

Gulbarga Airport

*755. DR. B.G. JAWALI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the Gulbarga Airport; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed and put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK): (a) and (b). The airstrip at Gulbarga belongs to the Government of Karnataka and is being constructed by them.

DR. B.G. JAWALI: Sir, I fail to understand this. Does it mean that the Civil Aviation Minister has nothing to do with the airstrip for airport that is being constructed there ?

Secondly, I was given to understand by the State Government that an expert committee of the Civil Aviation Authority with expert engineers for the construction of the airstrip was there. A report was submitted to the State Government and, in turn, to the Central Government.

I would like to know what is the delay. I know that the airstrip is being financed by the State Government. Whether it is the Central Government or the Department of Civil Aviation, under its supervision, it has to be completed and put into operation. At what stage is the airstrip; whether it is for Vayudoot or for any larger aircraft?

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : Sir, the construction of the airport has been taken by the State Government to Karnataka Land Army Corporation Limited. The National Airports Authority is only providing the technical assistance-consultancy-free-of-charge and as a special case. Apart from that, we have no authority over them.

DR. B.G. JAWALI : It is more than a decade now. The land has been acquired. The compensation has been paid. If it goes on, somewhere it has to be started. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether anything can be done in this matter?

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : Sir, I have already told that this is a State project. The project report was prepared and sent to them for implementation. More than that, we have no authority over it. It is the State Government who have to process the whole matter.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of New Rail Lines

*756 SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new railway lines foundation stones for which were laid in 1973-74 and which are still under construction;

(b) the initial amount allocated for these projects and the amount spent thereon so far;

(c) whether approval was accorded in 1973-74 for conversion of nine metre gauge lines into broad guage;

(d) if so, the reasons for not starting the construction work on three such lines; and

(e) whether the Government propose to chalk out a time bound programme to speed up the pace of construction of the aforesaid works?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Foundation stones were laid for 5 lines of which 2 are still under construction.

(b) Initial amount allocated in 1974-75 was Rs. 0.30 crores. The amount spent upto 31.3.91 on these works is Rs. 38.07 crores.

(c) and (d). Only one gauge conversion project Manmad-Parbhani-Parli Vaijnath was approved in 1973-74 on which work is in progress.

(e) 114 km of Manmad-Parbhani-Parli Vaijnath project from Manmad to Aurangabad is targetted for completion in 1991-92, depending on availability of resources.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that 13 years ago, 5 railway lines were sanctioned out of which 2 are still under construction. I would like to know the percentage of progress of that work and what was the initial cost and what is the present cost.

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, two projects, that is, two lines Shahadara-Saharanpur and Dalmau-Daryapur, have been completed. The foundation-stones were laid on 2.12.73 and 4. 12.1973. The third project is Chitauni-Bagaha.

Its foundation stone was laid on 22.10.1973. But only nine kilometres could be completed up to October, 1978. That is between Bagaha and Valmikinagar. Later it was frozen. However, this project has been re-commenced in 1990. The present cost is Rs. 160 crore in which the Water Resource Ministry and Uttar Pradesh Government and Bihar Government have to contribute Rs. 103 crore.